



STATE COLLEGE
**PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Staff:

Reed Dressler, Director of Youth Ministry

Heike Burghart Rice, Director of Music

Rev. Scott Hoffman, Senior Pastor

Leading in Worship:

Zack Maser, Natalee Hoffman, Lily Stone,
Allison Cole, Garin Stone, Jerry Sawyer and
FISH Youth.



Ash Wednesday

Prelude

Gathering and Welcome

Reed Dressler

***Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Scott Hoffman

***Call to Worship**

(from *A Wee Worship Book*, Fourth Incarnation,
Morning Liturgy A. 1999.)

L: In the beginning before time,
before people, before the world began,

P: God was.

L: Here and now among us, beside us,
enlisting the people of earth for the purposes
of heaven,

P: God is.

L: In the future, when we have turned to dust
and all we know has found its fulfillment,

P: God will be.

L: Not denying the world, but delighting in it,
not condemning the world, but redeeming it,
through Jesus Christ, by the power of
the Holy Spirit,

P: God was, God is, God will be.

***Hymn No. 401**

“Here in This Place”

***Releasing of Burdens**

Natalee Hoffman

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading: *Psalm 19:1-6* Allison Cole

First Poem of Reflection

Lily Stone

“Everything that was broken” by Mary Oliver

“Everything that was broken has
forgotten its brokenness. I live
now in a sky-house, through every
window the sun. Also your presence.
Our touching, our stories. Earthly
and holy both. How can this be, but
it is. Every day has something in
it whose name is forever.”

Anthem

“Your Love Is Deep”

Dan Collins, Jami Smith, Susanna Bussey

Second Scripture Reading: *Ecclesiastes 3:18-20*

Garin Stone

Second Poem of Reflection

“Life Expectancy” by Billy Collins

On the morning of a birthday that
ended in a zero,
I was looking out at the garden
when it occurred to me that the robin
on her worm-hunt in the dewy grass
had a good chance of outliving me,
as did the worm itself for that matter
if he managed to keep his worm-head down.

It was not always like this.
For decades, I could assume
that I would be around longer
than the squirrel dashing up a tree
or the nightly raccoons in the garbage,
longer than the barred owl on a branch,
the ibis, the chicken, and the horse,

longer than four deer in a clearing
and every creature in the zoo
except the elephant and the tortoise,
whose cages I would hurry past.

It was just then in my calculations
that the cat padded noiselessly into the room,
and it seemed reasonable,

given her bright eyes and glossy coat,
to picture her at my funeral,
dressed all in black, as usual,
which would nicely set off her red collar,
some of the mourners might pause in
their grieving to notice,
as she found a place next to a labradoodle
in a section of the church
reserved for their kind.

***Hymn No. 626**

“As the Deer”

***Imposition of Ashes**

***Sing the Faith No. 2138**

“Sundays Palms are Wednesday’s Ashes”

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Third Poem of Reflection

“As Kingfishers Catch Fire” by Gerald Manley Hopkins

As kingfishers catch fire,
dragonflies draw flame;
As tumbled over rim in roundly wells
Stones ring; like each tucked string tells,
each hung bell’s
Bow swung finds tongue
to fling out broad its name;
Each mortal thing does one thing
and the same:
Deals out that being indoors each one dwells;
Selves — goes itself;
myself it speaks and spells,
Crying *Whát I dó is me: for that I came.*

I say *móre*: the just man justices;
Keeps grace: *thát* keeps all his goings graces;
Acts in God's eye what in God's eye he is —
Christ — for Christ plays
in ten thousand places,
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his
To the Father through
the features of men's faces.

***Songs**

“Unafraid” by Matthew Black **Projection Only*
“Sanctuary” Hymn No. 701

***Poem of Blessing**

“Those Stars That Turn in Us” by Jan Richardson

I do not know
how to keep it all together
or by what patterns
this world might
finally hold.

What I know is that
our hearts are bigger
than this sky
that wheels above us

and what shines
through all this darkness
shines through us,
setting every shattered thing
into a new constellation

and we can
turn our faces
to that light,
to the grace
of those stars
that turn in us.